

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
The United States Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary of State Tillerson,

Congratulations on your nomination and swearing in as Secretary of State.

We are writing to request your assistance in working towards a solution for several American families who are in the final stages of adopting children from Russia. In 2012, many American families had their adoptions abruptly stopped by the passage of a Russian law banning United States citizens from adopting Russian children. When this law took effect, numerous families throughout America had already traveled to Russia, fallen in love with children they planned to adopt, and started the process to bring their children home, only to be heartbroken after discovering that their adopted children could no longer join them in America.

Many American families met their adopted children in Russia prior to the ban. Children that American families want to bring home are vulnerable and voiceless; some even have disabilities requiring specialized medical care they are not receiving or cannot receive in Russia. American parents have promised them loving homes and have already bonded with their adopted sons and daughters, but current Russian law prevents these dedicated families from bringing their children home more than four years after their adoptions were complete or nearing completion.

We have met many of these families and spoken with them frequently. They remain completely dedicated to these children and are doing everything in their power to help them from afar. Many families have even made regular trips to Russia to spend time with their adopted sons and daughters. Thousands of people across America have also been deeply moved by these stories and they have called upon Congress and the Administration to do what is necessary to resolve this issue.

Throughout the last months, you have expressed your commitment to work with foreign leaders for the betterment of America. As a bipartisan group of Senators and Members of Congress from across the United States, we urge you to prioritize this issue and seek a solution with the Russian government to address the adoption ban at the earliest opportunity. Although previous talks have stalled, as recently as January of this year, Russian officials expressed a willingness to open a dialogue with the United States to discuss ending the adoption ban.

We are confident that you can help find a humanitarian solution for these American families and their adopted Russian children. We ask you to raise this issue with the Russian government in the hopes that a resolution can be reached to reunite these vulnerable children with the families who love them.

We thank you in advance for your efforts on behalf of this group of children and families, and we appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress

BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress

JIM BANKS
Member of Congress

JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress

ROGER W. MARSHALL
Member of Congress

PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress

BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress

BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
Member of Congress

LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress

ROBERT PITTENGER
Member of Congress

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress

TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress

ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress

BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

GARY J. PALMER
Member of Congress

BRAD R. WENSTRUP
Member of Congress

LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress

ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

DAVID YOUNG
Member of Congress

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress

ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress

